snake-bite, and before long the necessary therapeutic agents will be distributed to the medical institutions in places where poisonous snakes abound. Much headway has not been made in the provision of labour and lying-in wards and pay wards in mofussil hospitals and it is for the Darbar Physician to persistently press for them until they are actually provided.

47. Ayurveda Department. The overhauling of the grant-in-aid *vaidyasalas* referred to in my last year's Address resulted in the elimination of 9 of them, but 10 new *vaidyasalas* have been added to the list of aided institutions in pursuance of the policy of increasing their total number to 120. The working of the Government Ayurveda Pharmacy at Trivandrum has provoked considerable adverse criticism both in the press and at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, and the question of circumscribing its operations to the requirements of the local Government Ayurveda Hospital is now engaging the attention of the Government. A Pandit Vaidyan has been detailed for publishing rare works on Ayurveda under the supervision of the Curator for the publication of Sanskrit manuscripts. The number of Ayurveda High Schools receiving grant-in-aid from the Government has increased by one in 1099.

48. Excise. Steady efforts have been put forth in recent years to promote the policy of the Excise Department, *viz.*, maximum revenue from minimum consumption, by reducing the number of shops, weakening the issue strength of liquor, and enhancing the still-head duty and tree-tax. The number of arrack shops in the excise area was reduced from 656 in 1096 to 631 in 1098, the quantity of arrack consumed going down from 1,53,159 proof gallons to 1,20,787 proof gallons during the period, which works out at 1·46 drams per head of the population, against 2·4 drams in Mysore, 2·1 drams in Cochin and 1·9 drams in Madras. The strength of arrack was reduced from 20° and 30° U. P. to 25° and 35° U. P. respectively from the beginning of 1097, while the still-head duty on jaggery and toddy arrack, which amounted to Rs. 3-2-0 and Rs. 5-10-0 in 1095, stood at Rs. 3-12-0 and Rs. 6-14-0 respectively in 1098, further increases being in contemplation for the next year. The annual rates of tree-tax have been raised from Rs. 2-8 0 to Rs. 3-8-0 in the case of the palmyrah, from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 in the case of the cocoanut, and from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 in the case of the sago palm. With a view to give effect to the policy of the gradual promotion of temperance foreshadowed by me at the eighteenth session of the Assembly and reiterated by the Excise Commissioner in the Legislative Council on behalf of the Government, a scheme was recently formulated by that officer, and a committee composed of officials and non-officials has been constituted to examine that scheme and submit suitable proposals. The report of this committee is awaited. The antiquated farming system in regard to toddy, which still prevails in the taluks of the State bordering on Cochin and which has been the subject of much adverse criticism, will be abolished from the commencement of next year, and the independent shop system with its concomitant of tree-tax will be introduced in those taluks as in the other parts of the State.

49. Education. Reference has already been made in my last year's Address to the appointment of a committee to consider and report on the question of a separate University for Travancore. Our conception of University education has undergone radical transformation since the publication of the report of the Calcutta University Commission, and the need for the establishment of a separate University to serve the needs of the people of this part of Southern India, with their distinctive traditions, genius and ideals, has been precipitated by the changes introduced into the constitution and character of the Madras University by the new University Act. This committee has concluded its sittings, and its report, which is now in process of drafting, is awaited. The vexed question of the admission of a larger number of students in His Highness the Maha Raja's College was considered by the Government at the beginning of the current academic year on receipt of the report of the committee appointed to make proposals in that behalf, and orders were issued for the admission of students in all classes to the maximum limit of the accommodation available. Steps are in progress for imparting instruction in Group III A of the

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B. A. course in the College with effect from the next academic year. His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Women has been removed to the spacious buildings and premises which were once the Darbar Physician's quarters at Taikad and additional buildings are being constructed for affording laboratory and other accommodation for the teaching of Group I newly opened in that College. A course of studies in the Vedas has been introduced in the Mahopadhyaya department of the Sanskrit College. An advisory board has been constituted to help the Curator for the publication of Sanskrit manuscripts in the selection of works for publication. The scheme for the medical inspection of pupils in recognised English Schools for boys has been started with effect from the current school year and boys in a number of schools have already been examined. The special course of study in subjects useful to women, extending over a period of three years and parallel to the ordinary High School course, referred to in my Address last year, has been started in the Government English High School for Girls in Trivandrum and the Sri Mulam Balika Matam at Tiruvalla. In pursuance of the policy of the Government to rely more and more upon private effort in the matter of secondary education and to hand over departmental schools to private bodies in all cases in which there is the assurance that the interests of efficiency will not suffer by such transfer, the departmental English Middle School at Bharananganam was transferred to private management at the beginning of the current school year. English has been introduced as a compulsory subject in nine departmental vernacular schools.

50. The scheme of fee concessions for the benefit of the depressed and backward classes brought into effect during the current year has proved to be an extremely costly one; and while there is no serious quarrel as regards its wholesale suitability to the children of the depressed classes, objection has been raised on principle by some of the non-official members of the Legislative Council to its application to the children of the backward classes. Government have accordingly promised to examine the whole question with a view to confine the benefits of the concessions to those who are in real need of them. Government propose also to pass orders simultaneously on the recommendations of the Scholarships Committee.

51. Government are doing everything in their power to accelerate the progress of mass education in the vernacular, universal primary education being the goal in view. 63·4 per cent. of children of the school-going age were under instruction in 1098, and every revenue village in the plains except two in Shencottah can now boast of at least one recognised primary school. Government have recently pressed on the attention of the department the immediate need for the further spread of primary education in the taluks of Shencottah, Nedumangad, Pattanapuram, Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, Kunnatnad and Parur, and they are aware that the Director of Public Instruction has already taken action in respect of Shencottah. It should be one of the essential duties of the Inspector of Vernacular Schools to see that primary education makes more rapid headway in the taluks where it is still backward. The period of notice required in the case of applications for permission to open private schools with a view to their subsequent recognition has now been reduced from six to three months, and this should serve to further facilitate private enterprise in the matter of opening new schools.

52. The scheme of introducing manual training in vernacular schools has now been practically completed, and at the beginning of the next school-year every departmental Vernacular Middle School will have one specially trained instructor on its staff. The diffusion of elementary manual training in primary schools is being brought about by imparting the necessary instruction in manual training to primary school pupil-teachers in the ten Vernacular Training Schools. A scheme has also been recently sanctioned with a view to start the introduction of manual training in departmental English Schools. The Legislative Council has recently passed a resolution recommending the gradual introduction of spinning as a form of manual training in vernacular schools, and the Government have called for proposals from the Director of Public Instruction for adjusting spinning into the scheme of manual training in such schools. Government fully realise the advantages that would accrue

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if, in some such way, the elements of vocational education could be co-ordinated with manual training and they would await the results of the new experiment with great interest.

53. A set of rules has been sanctioned with a view to create a net-work of night schools for the benefit of illiterate adults. These are in addition to the part-time schools referred to in my Address last year, which have been sanctioned with a view to serve the children of the labouring classes.

54. Encouragement of Vernaculars. With a view to the further encouragement of vernacular languages, Government have ruled that all correspondence in subordinate offices should be in the vernacular as far as possible, and that every person appointed in the subordinate ranks of the service should possess a knowledge of the vernacular. A full-time Assistant Translator has been appointed in the Huzur Office mainly to cope with the work of Tamil translation. Arrangements have been made for the translation of the proceedings of the Legislative Council into Malayalam and for the speedy collection of rare Malayalam manuscripts with a view to their ultimate publication. The Vernacular Text Book Committee is being entrusted with the duty of re-editing Malayalam Readers on behalf of the Government.

55. Libraries. The maximum grant awardable to a village library and reading room has been raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 per annum. The scheme for the affiliation of mofussil libraries to the Trivandrum Public Library, referred to in my Address last year, has been given effect to in the beginning of the current year, but only four such libraries have so far come forward to avail themselves of the concession.

56. Depressed Classes. The moral and material elevation of the depressed classes continues to engage the earnest attention of the Government. I have already referred to the efforts made in the direction of providing them with house-sites and economic farms, but these efforts, as already stated, have not been productive of much result, and in the opinion of the Government the time has now arrived for making the welfare of these classes the definite duty of a responsible officer. The details of this duty do not lend themselves to precise definition at once; but in the matter of securing grants of lands, they may be roughly described as consisting in the verification of lists of lands ear-marked for assignment to the depressed classes and the rectification of such lists by the elimination therefrom of useless lands and the addition thereto of useful ones, the maintenance of a record of applications for lands from members of these classes, and the watching of their disposal with a view to secure both celerity and satisfaction. The officer whose duties bring him into most intimate contact with the depressed classes is the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the question of appointing that officer as the protector of the depressed classes is now under the consideration of Government. Most of the departmental schools hitherto inaccessible to these classes have been thrown open to them under a scheme of joint inspection by the officers of the Land Revenue and Education Departments; and there are at present only 11 departmental schools in respect of which the question does not admit of immediate solution, while, in the case of the remaining 13, the necessary steps are in progress. In the case of the former 11 also, some way must be found out of the difficulty, and this will engage the attention of the Government. Government are glad to note that there is a progressive awakening of civic consciousness among the depressed classes and that they are banding themselves together in various ways for their self-advancement. The Co-operative and Fisheries Departments have been taking pointed interest in the uplift of these communities. Up to the end of Vrischikam 1099, as many as 96 Co-operative Societies have been registered for their special benefit, while the educational and industrial help rendered by the Department of Fisheries among the fisherfolk has not been inconsiderable.

Miscellaneous.

57. Devaswoms. The stabilisation of the Devaswom Department, newly constituted at the beginning of 1098, is proceeding satisfactorily. Government have ordered that the *pathivu* allotments not only for *nityanidanam*, but also for the *akattêpadittaram* in respect of *mâsavisêsham*, *âttavisêsham* and *utsavam* in all the major Devaswoms, the *pathivus* for which have been revised, should be fixed in

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